

the best practices, programs, or strategies learned by awarding subgrants to eligible public charter schools under this section, with particular emphasis on the best practices with respect to—

“(I) focusing on closing the achievement gap; or

“(II) successfully addressing the education needs of low-income students.

“(C) CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION.—The number of—

“(i) eligible public charter schools that are operating in the State in which the eligible entity intends to award subgrants under this section;

“(ii) public charter schools approved to open or likely to open during the grant period in such State;

“(iii) available openings in eligible public charter schools in such State that could be created through the replication or expansion of such schools if the grant is awarded to the eligible entity;

“(iv) students on public charter school waiting lists (if such lists are available) in—

“(I) the State in which the eligible entity intends to award subgrants under this section; and

“(II) each local educational agency serving an eligible public charter school that may receive a subgrant under this section from the eligible entity; and

“(v) students, and the percentage of students, in a local educational agency who are attending eligible public charter schools that may receive a subgrant under this section from the eligible entity.

“(D) TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION.—In the case of an eligible entity that is a State educational agency or local educational agency, a list of the following schools under the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including the name and location of each such school, the number and percentage of students under the jurisdiction of the eligible entity who are attending such school, and such demographic and socioeconomic information as the Secretary may require:

“(i) Identified schools.

“(ii) Schools with a low graduation rate.

“(E) ASSURANCE.—In the case of an eligible entity described in subsection (k)(4)(A), an assurance that the eligible entity will include in the notifications provided under section 1116(c)(6) to parents of each student enrolled in a school served by a local educational agency identified for school improvement or corrective action under paragraph (1) or (7) of section 1116(c), information (in a language that the parents can understand) about the eligible public charter schools receiving subgrants under this section.

“(d) PRIORITIES FOR AWARDED GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity that—

“(A) serves or plans to serve a large percentage of low-income students from identified schools or public schools with a low graduation rate;

“(B) oversees or plans to oversee one or more eligible public charter schools;

“(C) provides evidence of effective monitoring of the academic success of students who attend public charter schools under the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

“(D) in the case of an eligible entity that is a local educational agency under State law, has a cooperative agreement under section 1116(b)(11); and

“(E) is under the jurisdiction of, or plans to award subgrants under this section in, a State that—

“(i) ensures that all public charter schools (including such schools served by a local educational agency and such schools considered to be a local educational agency under State

law) receive, in a timely manner, the Federal, State, and local funds to which such schools are entitled under applicable law;

“(ii) does not have a cap that restricts the growth of public charter schools in the State;

“(iii) provides funding (such as capital aid distributed through a formula or access to revenue generated bonds, and including funding for school facilities) on a per-pupil basis to public charter schools commensurate with the amount of funding (including funding for school facilities) provided to traditional public schools;

“(iv) provides strong evidence of support for public charter schools and has in place innovative policies that support academically successful charter school growth;

“(v) authorizes public charter schools to offer early childhood education programs, including prekindergarten, in accordance with State law;

“(vi) ensures that each public charter school in the State—

“(I) has a high degree of autonomy over the public charter school's budget and expenditures;

“(II) has a written performance contract with an authorized public chartering agency that ensures that the school has an independent governing board with a high degree of autonomy; and

“(III) in the case of an eligible public charter school receiving a subgrant under this section, amends its charter to reflect the growth activities described in subsection (e);

“(vii) has an appeals process for the denial of an application for a charter school;

“(viii) provides that an authorized public chartering agency that is not a local educational agency, such as a State chartering board, is available for each individual or entity seeking to operate a charter school pursuant to such State law;

“(ix) allows any public charter school to be a local educational agency in accordance with State law;

“(x) ensures that each authorized public chartering agency in the State submits annual reports to the State educational agency, and makes such reports available to the public, on the performance of the schools authorized or approved by such public chartering agency, which reports shall include—

“(I) the authorized public chartering agency's strategic plan for authorizing or approving public charter schools and any progress toward achieving the objectives of the strategic plan;

“(II) the authorized public chartering agency's policies for authorizing or approving public charter schools, including how such policies examine a school's—

“(aa) financial plan and policies, including financial controls and audit requirements;

“(bb) plan for identifying and successfully (in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations) serving students with disabilities, students who are English language learners, students who are academically behind their peers, and gifted students; and

“(cc) capacity and capability to successfully launch and subsequently operate a public charter school, including the backgrounds of the individuals applying to the agency to operate such school and any record of such individuals operating a school;

“(III) the authorized public chartering agency's policies for renewing, not renewing, and revoking a charter school's charter, including the role of student academic achievement in such decisions;

“(IV) the authorized public chartering agency's transparent, timely, and effective process for closing down academically unsuccessful public charter schools;

“(V) the academic performance of each operating public charter school authorized or

approved by the authorized public chartering agency, including the information reported by the State in the State annual report card under section 1111(h)(1)(C) for such school;

“(VI) the status of the authorized public chartering agency's charter school portfolio, by identifying all charter schools served by the public chartering agency in each of the following categories: approved (but not yet open), operating, renewed, transferred, revoked, not renewed, voluntarily closed, or never opened;

“(VII) the authorizing functions (such as approval, monitoring, and oversight) performed by the authorized public chartering agency to the public charter schools authorized or approved by such agency, including an itemized accounting of the actual costs of such functions; and

“(VIII) the services purchased (such as accounting, transportation, and data management and analysis) from the authorized public chartering agency by the public charter schools authorized or approved by such agency, including an itemized accounting of the actual costs of such services; and

“(xi) has or will have (within 1 year after receiving a grant under this section) a State policy and process for overseeing and reviewing the effectiveness and quality of the State's authorized public chartering agencies, including—

“(I) a process for reviewing and evaluating the performance of the authorized public chartering agencies in authorizing or approving charter schools, including a process that enables the authorized public chartering agencies to respond to any State concerns; and

“(II) any other necessary policies to ensure effective charter school authorizing in the State in accordance with the principles of quality charter school authorizing, as determined by the State in consultation with the charter school community and stakeholders.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary may determine how the priorities described in paragraph (1) will apply to the different types of eligible entities defined in subsection (k)(4).

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant funds for the following:

“(1) SUBGRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To award subgrants, in such amount as the eligible entity determines is appropriate, to eligible public charter schools to replicate or expand such schools.

“(B) APPLICATION.—An eligible public charter school desiring to receive a subgrant under this subsection shall submit an application to the eligible entity at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the eligible entity may require.

“(C) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible public charter school receiving a subgrant under this subsection shall use the subgrant funds to provide for an increase in the school's enrollment of students through the replication or expansion of the school, which may include use of funds to—

“(i) support the physical expansion of school buildings, including financing the development of new buildings and campuses to meet increased enrollment needs;

“(ii) pay costs associated with hiring additional teachers to serve additional students;

“(iii) provide transportation to additional students to and from the school, including providing transportation to students who transfer to the school under a cooperative agreement established under section 1116(b)(11);

“(iv) purchase instructional materials, implement teacher and principal professional development programs, and hire additional non-teaching staff; and